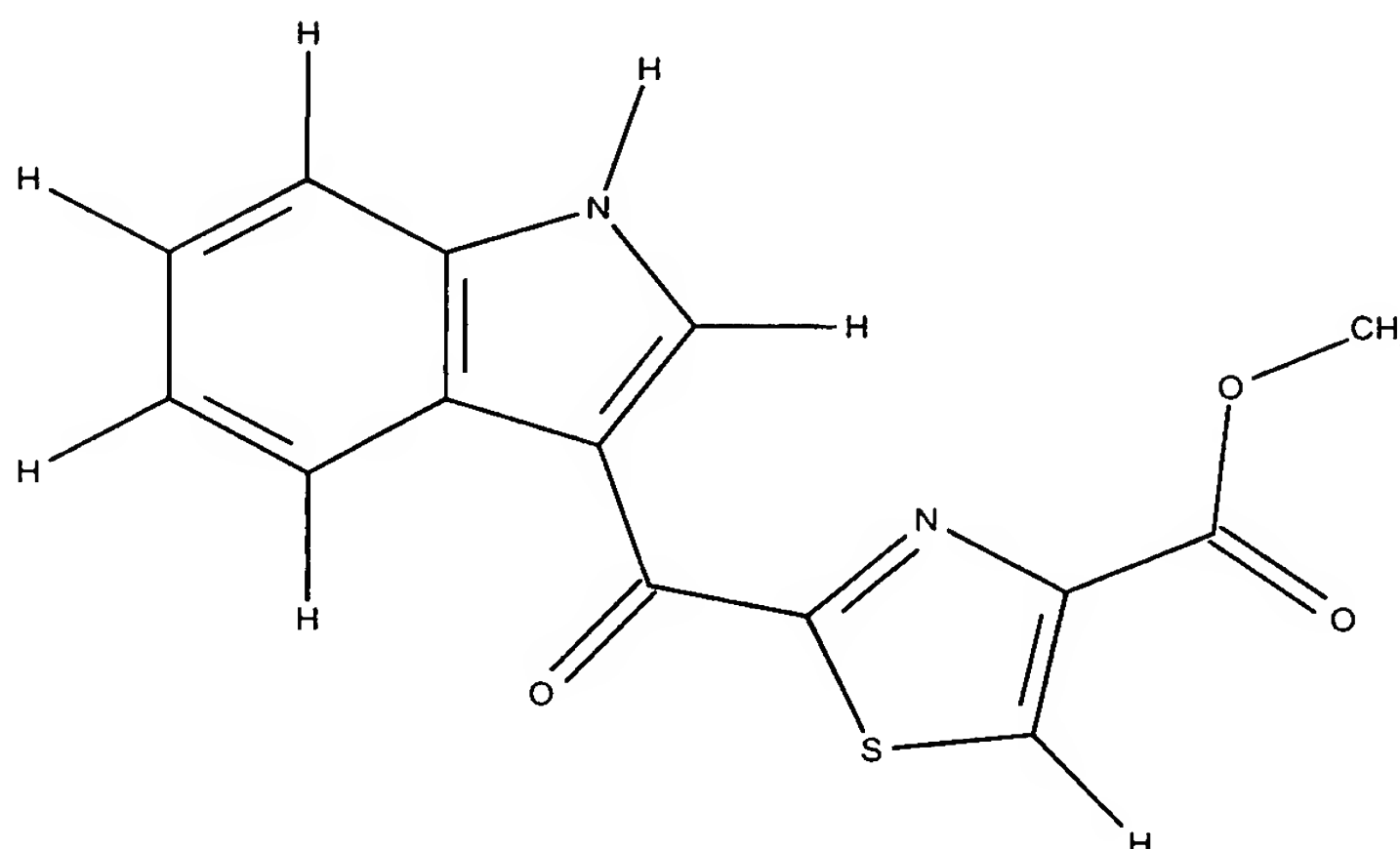


**In the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A therapeutic compound comprising A a  
preparation of the endogenous Ah receptor ligand.
2. (Currently Amended) An isolated preparation of endogenous Ah  
receptor ligand wherein the ligand has the following formula:



3. (Original) The preparation of claim 1 wherein the preparation is at  
least 90% pure.
4. (Original) The preparation of claim 3 wherein the preparation is at  
least 95% pure.
5. (Original) The preparation of claim 1 wherein the ligand is isolated  
from animal tissues.

6. (Withdrawn) A method of reducing the body weight of an animal comprising delivering to an animal an effective amount of Ah receptor ligand, wherein the amount is effective to decrease the body weight of the animal by at least 5%.

7. (Withdrawn) A method of modulating the immune system of an animal, comprising the step of treating the animal with an effective amount of Ah receptor ligand, wherein the amount is effective to modulate the immune system of the animal.

8. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing endogenous Ah receptor ligand comprising the steps of:

- a) obtaining and homogenizing an animal organ, wherein the organ contains the Ah receptor ligand, wherein a homogenate is formed,
- b) extracting the homogenate of step (a) with methanol, wherein an extract is formed,
- c) heating the extract between 90°C and 110°C with H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> wherein the extract is flushed with nitrogen gas, and
- d) purifying the ligand through a chloroform gradient and determining ligand activity.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein the animal organ is selected for the group consisting of lung, liver, brain, bone, and muscle.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein the extraction is with methanol.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein the extract is flushed with nitrogen gas, stirred and centrifuged.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein the extract is heated at between 90°C-110°C with H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein the extract is purified through silica batch purification.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein the ligand is further purified on HPLC columns.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of determining ligand activity.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the isolated preparation is at least 90% pure.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 where the preparation is at least 95% pure.